

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 6 remain in the application.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 6 have been rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Durrnagel (US Pat. No. 5,566,617) and Corrado et al. (US Pat. No. 6,196,128 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a pressure roller pressing the printing plate onto said plate drum during clamping and unclamping operations of the printing plate, said pressure roller having a non-adhesive surface; and

a pick-up roller in contact with said pressure roller,  
said pick-up roller having an adhesive surface and  
picking up combustion residue adhering to said pressure  
roller. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 6 calls for, inter alia:

a pressure roller with a non-adhesive surface pressing  
the printing plate onto the plate drum during clamping  
and unclamping operations of the printing plate, ...

a pick-up roller in contact with the pressure roller,  
said pick-up roller having an adhesive surface and  
picking up combustion residue adhering to the pressure  
roller. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner has stated that it is inherent that the pressure roller as described in the admitted prior art has a non-adhesive surface in order for the pressure roller to function properly. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is not inherent in the function of the pressure roller for it to have a non-adhesive surface. It would also work properly, i.e., it would press down the printing plate to the surface of the plate drum during clamping and unclamping, also with an adhesive surface. Neither Durrnagel nor Corrado et al. describe a pressure roller with a non-adhesive surface. Instead, Corrado et al. describe two contact cleaning rollers which are both adhesive.

Therefore, the non-adhesive property of the pressure roller is a feature solely found in the invention of the instant application, which has a special advantage in combination with

the property of the pick-up roller which is adhesive. The combination of both properties according to the invention of the instant application serves to pick up as little residues from the printing plate as possible by the pressure roller and if some residues are still transferred to the pressure roller to pick up as much of these as possible by the pick-up roller. This combination of properties is not obvious from the prior art and it is also not inherent in the function of a pressure roller.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 6. Claims 1 and 6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 6 are solicited.

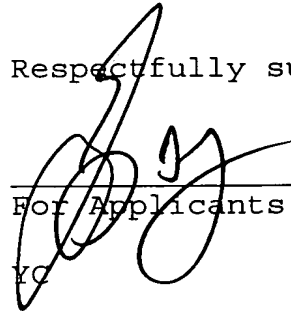
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which

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might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the  
Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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